Sharks

By: Bryce Capron

If you have ever seen the movie Jaws, you might not know that the great white shark's name was Bruce and he was very big. But don't worry, he was fake. When Bruce was built, he was actually 25 feet long and weighed 3 tons, which is the same weight as an F-250 truck! Now that is a pretty big shark.

The average real Great White shark is 11-16 feet long. Great White sharks eat fish, invertebrates, and lots of other marine animals, but the only threat to Great White sharks is the killer whale. A female killer whale grows up to about 23 feet, while a male grows up to 27 feet. I can see why they are predators of the Great White!

Anyway, let's get back to the amazing facts about the Great White shark. An average size Great White shark has about 50 teeth in the front and will end up having 300 teeth in its whole life. I don’t think I’d like to be a shark dentist! The first ever recorded Great White shark was in the year 1758 by a man named Carl Linnaeus. It’s also been discovered that a Great White shark’s blood is toxic and is fatal to most animals. One of the main things a Great White shark is known for is smelling blood from far away. They can actually smell just a couple drops of blood from 3 miles away! Now that's pretty far away just to smell a few drops of blood.

Another popular movie about sharks is The Meg. The Meg is a movie about a deadly Megalodon that goes on a crazy killing spree. The movie was made in 2018 and took 27 days to film. Now that that's out of the way, let's talk about a real Megalodon. The Megalodon actually became extinct 2.6 million years ago. The most common spot Megalodon fossils are found are in warm tropical spots. Megalodons ate whales, large fish, and even other sharks. A Megalodon had 276 teeth in its mouth at one time and each tooth was 7 inches long. That’s about the size of a large pair of scissors! An average sized Megalodon was between 49 feet to 59 feet long. Just a normal Megalodon was about 3x bigger than the largest Great White shark ever recorded, which was 19.7 feet long. Can you believe that a megalodon would be 27 feet bigger than an ordinary school bus? There are still lots of things we do not know about the megalodon, but some scientists study them to this day.

I found it fascinating that a great white shark’s blood is toxic and that a megalodon had teeth that were 7 inches long. You may not have to worry about a megalodon anymore, but the Great White shark is mostly found in California and Florida. So if you live in one of those places, watch out!

Pele

By: NicoDoria

Edson Arntes do Nascimento, also known as Pele, was born on October 23, 1940 at Tres Coracoes, Minas Gerais, Brazil but moved to Bauru, São Paulo, Brazil at the age 5, 1945. His parents were named Joao Ramos and Dona Celeste. He started playing soccer at the age of 16. His first soccer team he played for was Santos and his position was left striker. He scored 1,283 goals in his career. He was among the most sucessful and popular sports figures in the 20th century.

During his career, Pele won 3 World Cups. He won his first World Cup in 1958, and then again in 1962 and 1970. In 1967 Pele and his team traveled to Nigeria, where a 48 hour cease-fire in that nation’s civil war was called to allow all to watch the great player. He also won the International Peace Award in 1978 and was named Athlete of the Century in 1980 by a French sports publication. He was known as Soccer Player of the Century in 2000. He was Minister of Sports of Brazil. Pele married Marcia Aoki on July 9, 2016 at the age of 75. His children were Edinho, Sandra, Joshua, Celeste, Kelly, Jennifer, and Flavia. His brother was named Jair and his sister was named Maria.

Pele announced his retirement in 1974 but in 1975 he agreed to do a 3 year $ 7 million contract with the New York Cosmos. He officially retired in 1977. When Pele retired, he opened up a company called Pele Sports and Market. Sadly, Pele, Brazil’s mighty king of soccer died on December 29, 2022 at the age of 82. He died at Albert Einstein Israelite Hospital, São Paulo, Brazil.

Pele was my favorite soccer player. He was not only a great left striker, but a great person, as well. I hope you get to watch one of his games someday to see how great of a player he was.

Basic Economics

By: Tyler Everett

Did you know that there are many types of economics? My favorite type of economics is Austrian economics. That’s when interest rates are determined by when people borrow and lend money. Now it's time for the interesting part, the part where you learn something.

Banks are what hold our money. There is a bank called Bayfirst. This bank has a kids cash club where if you are 12 years old or younger, you can save money, learn smart money skills, and earn a little interest. Interest is money that a bank will pay you to keep your money in their bank. Interest is measured by percentage. If you have $300 thousand in the bank, interest could turn that into a lot more money after a year depending on the interest rate you get. Fun fact - the study of economics was supposed to be called ‘political economy’.

Adults in the audience probably know what a salary is. For those of you who don’t, a salary is the money you get paid when you work. Some of you kids might have experienced something like this at a lemonade stand, mowing the lawn, or babysitting. Maybe you do chores. Hopefully, you have saved some of the money you earned from these jobs.

Remember Bayfirst bank that I spoke about in the beginning? Did you know that it is located in downtown St. Petersburg and they actually hire kids to work. They teach and test them on their economic knowledge. I actually work there and my salary is fifty dollars! I haven’t spent any of it and I’m going to wait until there’s something I really need.

My favorite part about economics is that learning about it as a kid will prepare me for when I am an adult. Did you know that there are many jobs that involve economics? Some of them are stockbrokers, business managers, salespeople, and financial consultants. My dad is the Chief Financial Officer of Mahaffey Apartment Company. His focus is finance in commercial real estate. That’s what I want to do when I grow up.

I am going to tell you about something called a loan. A loan is when someone borrows an amount of money from a ban .kWhen someone takes out a loan, they have to pay interest. Usually when someone takes out a loan, it is for a lot of money for things like a house or a car. And most of your parents probably got a loan from a bank like Wells Fargo or Bay First.

Now here’s the best part of economics - the money. The government prints money and we consume it. When I say consume, I mean we take in money and either put it in a bank account or spend it. The government actually has multiple banks that put money in the economy by interest.

Economics can be a very complicated topic, but I hope I was able to teach you something about it. Now go out there and save some money!

The History of Pajamas

By: Bennett Flint

We all know about beloved Pajamas, from Cotton and French Terry, to Babydoll and Printed P.J.s, and, of course, Onesies and Silk. But not one person has ever asked where they came from.

Well, it all started in the 1600s. A Frenchman named Jean De Thevenot mentioned Portuguese people wearing clothes to bed. That is our earliest record of the comfy, cozy, clothes we know today. BUT THAT IS NOT ALL!!! So stay tuned guys!

Some people didn't call them pajamas at first. In fact, the British used to call them Mogul’s breeches for some strange, weird reason. In 1870, the good ol’ pjs took a step up. They were now popular for men. Bravo pajamas!

But guess what!? In the 1900s, they became popular sleepwear, for ALL genders. But if we should thank anyone for what pajamas are today, it’s the British. They made pajamas popular. Maybe that’s how they stopped the Revolutionary War. I’m joking! I know that America beat the British. But that’s a different story.

Oh, and for the record, if you’re shopping for pjs, try to find natural fabrics because they are better for the environment. Also, if trying to buy pajamas for kids, buy cotton. It’s natural AND better for kids.

Did you know that some people consider printed pajamas to be the most popular? I wonder why… Anyway, they have pictures of things on them. Maybe they're good with kids, I don't know.

Ever wonder why they are called pajamas? Well, you don’t need to wonder anymore, because I’m about to tell you! In Persian, pajamas translates to “garment for the leg”. WOW!!!

Now here comes the fun part. Are you ready? It’s Iconic pajama scenes in movies!!! A personal favorite for people is the scene in *A Christmas Story*, where the main character wears a pink bunny onesie. You all probably know that famous scene. You also probably know the scenes from *Home Alone* where Kevin wears pjs. Pajamas are also mentioned in other movies such as *Despicable Me, The Family Switch, National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* and *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas.*

Did you know that if you combine a sleepy emoji with a t-shirt emoji, you get a pajama emoji? There isn't a real pajama emoji yet, but hopefully there will be one day!

I hope you enjoyed learning about the history of pajamas.

Famous Cats

By: John Grecsek

Have you ever heard of cats? Of course you have! But have you ever heard of any famous cats? Well, one famous cat was named Unsinkable Sam and this cat was black and white. He survived 3 different shipwrecks. Some historians think that Unsinkable Sam was multiple cats, but that hasn’t been proven.

Now another famous cat served in the navy. His name was Able Sea Cat Simon. Simon was also black and white and he served on HMS Amethyst. But he sadly got injured in an attack. But that didn’t stop him! He protected the limited food on the ship. If Simon didn’t protect the food they would have starved. Once he got home he received the Dickens Medal, which was a medal for an animal getting sick in battle.

Another cat in the famous cat “CATEGORY” was the first to go to space. Felicette went to space on October 18th, 1963. He reached 100 miles above earth, and he came down safely. Sadly, 2 months later, scientists wanted to study his brain, so Felicette gave his life for science. IN 2020, a memorial was made to honor him.

Now this might be hard to believe, but one particular cat wrote a physics book, technically. Chester was the pet of a college student in France. The author needed a 2nd author to submit his book. On the cover, it said the author's name and “F.D.C”. Willard. ” F.D.C” stood for Felix Domesticus, Chester. Willard was Chester's dad.

A few English prime ministers in history had pets, but these 2 had cats. Jock was Winston Churchill's cat. He was an orange tabby who liked chasing butterflies. The current Jock is the 6th one. Now the current prime minister has his own cat, Larry, or “Chief Mouser” as he’s also called.

Our next one up is actually about 2 cats and it’s crazy. They have their own youtube channel called “Cole and Marmalade.” Cole and Marmalade are two rescued cats. Cole is 11 years old and he is a Black Turkish Angora (Cat breed) Marmalade is a 10 year old tabby and she beat cancer! She is also a rescue. They have videos of their lives, other cats, and their parents. They got their own channel from their parents. They didn't make themselves.

That's all the famous cats for today. You learned about Unsinkable Sam, Able, SeaCat Simon, Felicette, F.D.C Willard, Jock, Chief Mouser, Cole, Marmalade. Can you believe there are so many famous cats? If you have a cat, maybe it’ll become famous one day, too.

Cats

By: Travis Hayes

Do you have a cat, or have you ever wanted a cat? If you do, would you want to train it? I would love to give you a couple tips and tricks about training cats. Before we start, I will tell you about a few of my favorite breeds. There are Ragdoll, Russian Blue, Persian, Siamese, British Shorthair, and finally Maine Coon. A fun fact about Maine coons is they are one of the biggest cat breeds in the world! The average weight of a male Maine Coon is 25 pounds and females average 12 pounds. They have long soft fur and love to sit in your lap. One of my cats, Little Gray, is a Russian Blue. His litter mate, Captain Cute, is a mix of Russian Blue and American Shorthair. They love to play with each other, my brother, and me.

Now, let’s talk about training. To begin, you need the proper tools, treats, food, and knowledge. You also want to have a loving and trusting relationship with your furry friend. First, you have to decide what you want to train your cat to do. It could be how to shake hands, sit, lay down, or even just listen to your commands! In training, you need to start with the basics, and at the beginning you should keep your sessions short and take away distractions. As your cat advances, you can make your training sessions longer, involve others, add distractions, and be sure to end the training on a positive note. You should have your cat's preferable treat and reward consistently.

Now I will teach you about the best cat food. Providing your cat with the right food is critical for their health and dietary needs. Little Gray requires a hairball and urinary control food while Captain Cute requires a weight loss food. Depending on your cat, you need the proper food. Cats are carnivores so they mostly eat meat. House cats evolved from hunters who ate high amounts of protein and some fat and carbs. Some good foods for your cats are Purina Pro Plan, Hills Science Diet, Royal Canin, and Blue Buffalo. We feed our cats Hills Science Diet. Did you know that cats, depending on their health live 13-15 years, but sometimes cats live 20-30 years?

Since I'm all done teaching you about how to train a cat, I want to tell you one of my favorite facts about kittens. Did you know that kittens are born with their eyes closed, are born with blue eyes, and are easy to potty train?

Some of you might be dog lovers, but if you ever decide to try a cat, you now know how to train it. Once you see one of those adorable kittens with blue eyes, you’ll definitely want to get one!

Chinese New Year

By: Nate Hoo

The official definition of the Chinese New Year is the Chinese festival marking the start of the new year, beginning on the second new moon after the winter [solstice](https://www.google.com/search?safe=active&sca_esv=20eb13cd3512c25f&rlz=1CADVQA_enUS1071&q=solstice&si=AKbGX_qNq0Y8zql7SxzZAf2-HTTOOCktOd_r-_8n8OGD8XyTI__F7DIka6vPn3qSxkseyzkns7sU39aw17ZHxr6Nj-we8N_53hzVyluR8RbyAvdRkgxcBx0%3D&expnd=1) and ending on the full moon fifteen days later. Now really, there’s so much more to it than that. That’s just a boring definition. Did you know that the Chinese New Year originated from a legend? Once upon a time, a very long time ago when the date was not recorded, Nian, a mythical creature that lived in the sea with a lion head and a sharp horn, would come down to a village and attack. Soon the villagers found out that Nian hated lots of bright lights, and especially the color red. The villagers used these objects to scare Nian so badly they sent him back under the sea. Then every lunar New Year’s Eve, they would hang red decorations and light fireworks.

There are lots of different traditions during Chinese New Year, some involve parades and some involve cleaning homes to remove bad luck. The Chinese New Year lasts 15 days. Some traditions are people wearing red clothes and having red lanterns or kumquat trees. More traditions are lighting firecrackers, or fireworks and colorful lanterns. One last tradition is that during Chinese New Year, there are lion and dragon dances and parades. The final day of the Chinese New Year promotes peace and reconciliation to welcome the new year.

The Chinese New Year also involves many Chinese Zodiac signs. Each year there is a cycle for each different zodiac. The 12 animals are the rooster, the dog, the pig, the rat, the ox, the tiger, the rabbit, the dragon, the snake, the horse, the goat, and the monkey. Are you lucky, charismatic, gifted, or powerful? If you are, you may be a dragon like me, or If you are stubborn you may be an ox. One last one is that if you are lazy, you may be a pig, rooster, or a rabbit. Different Chinese zodiac signs have different meanings. Now you know all about Chinese New Near, you can go home and look up your Chinese zodiac sign.

Rubber Ducks

By: Aaliyah Kassis

Have you ever heard this song before? Rubber duckie you’re the one, who makes bath time lots of fun, rubber ducky I'm awfully fond of you. Of course you’ve heard of it. Everyone knows this song. But there is so much more about the rubber duckie you didn't even know about.

Did you know that the rubber duckie song was released in 1970? An American composer named Jeff Moss wrote it and it ended up reaching #16 on the Billboard’s hot 100 singles chart. The person who sang rubber duckie was Jim Henson. He was also playing the role of Ernie from Sesame Street. The song was a tribute to Ernie’s duckie.

Did you ever wonder who created the rubber duck? The first rubber duck was made in the late 19th century. Believe it or not, the actual first rubber duck didn't float; they were meant to be chew toys. Then a sculptor named Peter Ganine made the duck using vinyl in 1947 and it could float. For a while, most rubber ducks were made in vinyl, but we still call them rubber ducks.

Have you ever been on the road and saw a jeep with a rubber duck? Well, the reason jeep owners do this is because it shows respect to other jeep owners. The meaning of getting “ducked” is when another jeep owner gives you a duck. This trend goes back to 2020 during the pandemic. The person who started this trend was Allison Parliament from Ontario, Canada. She randomly bought rubber ducks and gave them to other jeep owners with a note that said have a great day.

There are so many sizes of rubber ducks, but the main sizes are jumbo, medium, and small. Have you ever wondered what the size is of the largest rubber duck in the world? It is more than 6 stories high, 79 feet wide, 80 feet long, and weighs more than 30,000 pounds! It was created by a Dutch artist.

I guess there's a national day for everything because January 13th is Rubber Duck Day. People sell rubber ducks on websites, too, like duckycity.com and duckinthewindow.com. And believe it or not, there is also a big rubber duck race. It is estimated that there are 125,000 rubber ducks that are dumped in the Chicago River every year. If your duck wins then you have a chance to win 1 million dollars in cash and a brand new car! Most of the money raised goes to the Special Olympics.

Out of all the information I learned about rubber ducks, my favorite was when I found out they didn’t used to float and that they were chew toys. Which fact did you like the best? By the way, what did the rubber duck day to the real baby duck? I’ve had plastic surgery! I hope you had a quacking good time learning about rubber duckies.

Being Healthy

By: Axel Lepeyre

Since the obesity rate in America has gone up 45%, I’m concerned about people’s health and well being. There are two things you can do in your life that will make you a healthier person, physical activity and the other is having a healthy diet.

Do you know how much physical activity improves your mental and physical health? First, mental health - did you know that physical activity lowers your stress, anxiety, and feelings of anger? When I’ve been angry, my mom tells me to play outside and guess what? It works!!! Physical activity can also increase confidence and self esteem. You can also exercise to help improve your concentration and “relaxation.” I sure didn’t know that word existed. You will end up having a better memory and a healthy appetite.

Did you also know that the more sports and exercise you do, it will help you prevent falls? You will also have straighter posture and you will develop more positive sleep patterns. You can have better endurance and strength, and it also lowers weight. Make sure you drink a lot of water and stay healthy.

Physical activity also increases your lung capacity. It will prevent heart disease, strokes, and diabetes. Sleeping and physical activity are some of the best medicines out there. They will improve your bone health and increase energy. Helping to prevent cancer is also a positive benefit by staying active and maintaining a good weight. Physical activity can also help prevent alzheimers since when you exercise, your brain gets more oxygen.

All healthy people have a healthy diet. You can eat keto, be a vegan or find a healthy diet which includes meat. I think the best type of diet should be meals based with higher fiber starchy carbohydrates. Choose to add either whole grain foods, like pasta, rice, or potatoes. You should also eat a lot of fruit and vegetables. It’s recommended that you eat at least 5 portions of fruit and vegetables per day. Eating more fish, including oily fish, is important, too, since fish is a good source of protein and vitamins. Oily fish include salmon, trout, herring, and sardines

You can also cut down on saturated fats and sugar. There are two main types of fats, saturated and unsaturated. Too much saturated fat can increase amounts of cholesterol in the blood, which increases chances of heart disease.

So that is all you need to be healthy. Make sure to exercise and have a good diet.

Coke Vs. Pepsi

By: Nika Mageras

Coke and Pepsi are two great drinks with very interesting backgrounds. Coca Cola's company started in 1886 with John Stith Penbrtion giving his first sample at a pharmacy. Not that long after, a drink called “Brad's Drink“ showed up in 1893, but its first advertisement wasn’t until October 15, 1904. That's when a lot of people started to buy Brad's Drink, which later changed into the name Pepsi because of how the drink could relieve dyspepsia. Dyspepsia is something that can hurt your lower or upper abdomen. This was the beginning of the war between Coke and Pepsi.

Coca Cola's name came from two of its own ingredients: **coca** leaves and **Kola** nuts. Get it? “Coca….” “Cola?” Coca Cola also contains caffeine, sodium, and phosphoric acid, which can come from three different types of salt. Can you believe how much salt is in that drink? Pepsi contains all of the same ingredients as Coca Cola, but Pepsi has citric acid instead. Citric acid can cause skin reactions and it contains mold. Gross, huh??

Pepsi has also changed some things in their drink, such as they’ve added less sugar to their products. They have also changed their logo, in fact they've changed their logo 19 different times while Coca Cola has changed only 11 different times. The original owners have changed too. Berkshire Hathaway now owns Coca Cola and Pepsico's ownerships own Pepsi. Coca Cola and Pepsi are also similar because they don't just sell soda anymore. They have merchandise for sale, such as T-shirts and hats. Coca Cola and Pepsi have products in over two hundred countries and territories. Pepsico owns Pepsi and other food brands like Mountain Dew and Lays and makes about 22 billion dollars a year on just Pepsi. Coca Cola makes 12 million dollars a year. The prices back then and now are very different from each other. Back then, a glass of soda was only five cents and now it is $1.99 for a can of either of the drinks. That could make a big difference to the amount of money they made compared to now.

All around the world people like Coke and Pepsi, which has led to competition between the two similar drinks. Coke and Pepsi have been ranked before and it was said that Pepsi was ranked second against Coca Cola and other sodas. I went ahead and tested this theory to my friends and family. The results came out that ALL of the people I asked said that they liked Coca Cola more than Pepsi. Even my teacher picked Coke! I myself would choose Coca Cola because of the nonmetallic taste it has, unlike Pepsi which is caused by the citric acid. Well, this is the end of the Coke vs. Pepsi story for now. Just remember there's always love for Pepsi and that there is a Coke side of life.

ALL ABOUT CAPYBARAS

By: Jack Mohan

I'llbet most of you have never heard of a capybara. They are actually very unique and popular animals that are huge for a rodent. If you want to learn about capybaras you've come to the right place.

You can see these amazing, lovable, and adorable rodents being born in South America. You can find them in Panama, Columbia, Venezuela, Guyana, Peru, Brazil, and Uruguay. They are mostly known for being a big meme on the internet for a while, and still are. They are also known for being the biggest rodent. They are chill and nice animals. They make friends with a lot of other animals, take citrus baths, and eat a ton of citrus in the baths. They are better off with some Capybara buddies instead of living alone. They are the nicest animals and their predators can be some wolves and coyotes, but they don't live where capybaras do. Their real predators are alligators and crocodiles.

Capybaras can grow to be 3 feet long and 174 lbs. That can be the weight of a grown man! They can live up to 8 years in the wilderness and 12 years in captivity if people are careful. Capybaras love swimming, and can swim up to 5 mph. But when they’re little, they can't swim very well. Capybaras can also be underwater for 5 minutes.Capybaras communicate through squeaks and barks. They bark when they are scared, especially when in front of predators. Capybaras are actually related to guinea pigs, prairie dogs, and other rodents. There are no different Capybara breeds but some animals look very similar. Can you believe that Capybaras can run up to 22 mph? Capybaras are legal to own as pets even though they are not a common pet. Capybaras are so friendly, they can even make friends with some gators, though they are the capybaras' predators.

I’m sure you are wondering what capybaras look like. Capybaras have small ears that stick out, and are sometimes very fat, kind of like small hippos. If all this information is making you think about getting a Capybara, know that they need a natural habitat and need attention and care. Capybaras need a habitat where they can wash off and be calm. They need a hot spring, so they can feel welcome and they can feel happy. They don't like living in a backyard with nothing to do. They have to have a place to be where they can have a friend. It doesn't have to be another Capybara, they just need a friend, like a dog or cat, maybe even a ferret or guinea pig.

If you didn't know what a capybara was before, you should now be a capybara expert. So the next time you’re thinking about buying a pet, make it a cute, loving capybara.

History Of the Banana

By: Solo Mussio

Did you know that the bananas you buy in stores with those tiny black seeds in them aren't plantable? So if you buy them, just know that a banana won’t grow inside you after you eat it! There are a lot of interesting facts about bananas I’ll bet you’ve never even heard of.

If you're on a diet, just remember that bananas are a good source for losing weight because they are low in calories. Bananas also contain vitamin B and C. Vitamin B is good for energy levels. Vitamin C is good for protecting cells.

If you have only ever eaten a yellow banana, well you'll be surprised that bananas can have all types of colors, like brown, red, pink, and purple. You can find these types of bananas in Burma and southeast Asia.

If you're wondering who found the first banana, it was Alexander the Great who was born in 257 BC. That is about 2,380 years ago, or about 869,295 days ago! I wonder if they used it for smoothies back then.

When you see a banana on what you think is a tree, you're incorrect because it's not really a tree. They are actually banana plants that can grow from 2 to 30 feet tall. If you decide to pick one of these bananas or just buy them at a store, remember to wash them. Bananas can have germs on the outside of it that can go into what you eat.

Here’s a fact I’ll bet none of you know. If you drop your banana in the ocean, or any type of water, they can float. And did you know that if you eat a banana at night, it can give you nightmares and vivid dreams that are very realistic? I don't eat bananas at night because I’m afraid I’ll have a nightmare about falling in the ocean. Just remember to not eat bananas or you'll wake up sweating with fear.

If you want to grow a banana, you should hear this! First, how do you get a seed if it’s not on the banana? You should warm it up and soften it. Put the seed in a bowl and cover it with warm water. Leave it for 48 hours to let the embryo sprout. Sow the seed about ¼ inch into some soil. You must water it so the soil is moist, but not soggy or else you will drown it. Then use a heater to warm it to at least 60 degrees.. Now just give it time. It can take a few weeks, months, or longer.

My favorite fact about bananas is that there are all different types of colors! I think eating a purple banana would be very cool. What was your favorite fact?

Crayola Crayons

By: Carlos Pantoja

Did You know that the first crayon was actually chalk and was made in 1885? The first crayon company was started in 1885 by Edwin Binney and Harold Smith and was called Binney and Smith Company. Binney’s dad owned a chemical factory in Eastern Pennsylvania called Peekskill Chemical Company. They bought this company from Binney’s dad in order to start manufacturing crayons. Binney and Smith had an idea to revolutionize the classrooms by creating chalk that was dust free. Kids also needed wax sticks to be able to write on paper, so Binney and Smith created the dust-free 6 pack crayon set that was non toxic, colorful, and fun!

In 1900, Binney and Smith won a gold medal for the most innovative products in the St. Louis Fair. In 1903, Binney and Smith listened to the needs of children. Kids wanted more colors!

Binney’s wife dreamed of a company named Crayola Craie for the French name chalk and ola for oily. This was the start of the Crayola Crayon Company.

In 1958, came the Classic Crayola collection of 64 colors and a built-in sharpener. Soon came markers of all kinds and colored pencils. And then something to help parents at home - washable crayons! And they were jumbo size and very popular!

In 1984, Crayola collaborated with Hallmark and became one company to make the world a more fun experience for kids and adults.

In 1996, Crayola opened the Crayola Factory in Eastern Pennsylvania, and is now known as the Crayola Experience. It’s a big park that has a lot of activities to do, such as creating your own crayons and trying new products. I highly recommend it because I went there and there was a lot to do.

Now the Crayola company still makes innovative products for kids around the world. Crayola has a solar farm that helps make crayons.They even have a game on the app store, cartoons, and so much more. To celebrate Crayola 100, they made Crayola LLC.

For generations to come Crayola will make toys and crayons for everyone! You can see more crayons at the nearest Crayola Experience in Orlando, Fl! There will be so much to do when you arrive and enjoy your stay. The next time you hold a crayon in your hand, you should think of how old they are and how it has changed classrooms throughout the years.

Four Day Work Week

By Thomas Weidner

Did you know that with a four day work week, people love their job more and want to come to work? They will also remember what they have to do at work and do it well. Research states that there is 40% increased productivity in a 4 day week, therefore you can get a lot more work done in a shorter amount of time. Another advantage is that since people would be at work for a day less, there would be a savings of 20% on electricity and 60% less pages are printed. The company can then spend the money they save on better equipment or higher wages. People working a 4 day week also have 62% fewer sick days, therefore you will have a lower chance of being understaffed. Finally, there will be fewer cases of employee burnout when there are only working 4 days a week.

Although there are all those great pros, a 4 day week also comes with cons. One would be less brainstorming time. There would be less time to think about brilliant ideas, such as better sales tactics for the business. A second con would be that some may want to take off on a Monday or a Friday, so there would be less workers on those days. But you might be able to persuade them to choose one day or the other. Going quickly through their work so they still get their day off is a third con. You may have to pay for overtime if the work they do isn’t their best. Another con would be the supervisor may have a full week schedule because they might have to come in for meetings. This might cause more stress because they're worried about not getting that day off.

In conclusion, I would rather have a four day work week for my future business because more young people want to spend more time with their family and friends and have less time at work.

Leopard Geckos

By: Grant Kelly-Webb

I wish I could have brought my own leopard gecko today, but I could not. So instead, I will be teaching you about leopard geckos and why you should get one.

You should get a leopard gecko because they are really fun animals. They love being held and they won't bite you. Leopard geckos eat live insects like crickets, worms and roaches, but they don't need roaches. For their tank you should get at least a 20 gallon tank with a heat lamp. On one side you should have 2 to 4 hides and have one moist hide. You should also either get some substrate that is approved for leopard geckos or a reptile carpet will also work. They will eat their skin when they shed.

If you’re from Florida, then you probably have never seen a leopard gecko in the wild. That is because they are from Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan. You can, however, buy one at your local exotic animal store.

Another fun fact is that leopard geckos can see color in the dark and they can also see lights that are invisible to humans. There are also many different morphs of leopard geckos. They can drop and regrow their tails, they don't have sticky pads on their feet, and they also have movable eyelids. I’ve tried to move my eyelids, but I can’t. I wonder how they do that? Leopard geckos have a long range of vocalizations with unique meanings.

In conclusion, next September 24th and October 22nd are national leopard gecko day, so be sure to celebrate them! You should also consider buying one because leopard geckos are really easy to take care of and they are great fun animals.